

Westminster Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Parking Ordinances for Vehicles and Commercial Vehicles

Date: May 8, 2012

Location: City Streets of Westminster

On April 11, 2012, during the city council meeting, the Westminster City Council voted to approve new updated Municipal Ordinances that deal with the parking and storage of vehicles on public streets, non-motorized vehicles parked on public streets, and the parking of commercial vehicles, including privately owned and operated buses on city streets. The new ordinances become effective on May 11, 2012.

The Westminster Police Department and city Code Enforcement deal with a variety of parking issues on city streets and in alleys. In most instances they are able to work with the vehicle owners to resolve the issue.

Recently, the police department realized some of the ordinances were outdated. In many cases the vehicle owners had discovered ways to manipulate the ordinances and avoid violations. As an example, the old ordinances required that an officer visibly mark a vehicle, then allow 72-hours for the vehicle to be moved before a violation occurred. In many instances the vehicle owner would simply move the car several feet. The new ordinance now requires that vehicles marked for 72-hours must be removed from the street or moved at least 2/10th of a mile from where it was marked. The vehicle can be towed and removed from the street if the owner does not comply.

Another issue resulting in numerous calls for service is the parking of large commercial vehicles on city streets, including but not limited to tractor trailers and privately owned and operated commercial buses. Tractor trailers parked on city streets reduce driver visibility and increases traffic congestion. Privately owned buses will be parked on city streets while picking up and dropping off passengers. The buses park with the engines running for long periods of time which creates a noise and pollution nuisance for nearby residents. We also receive complaints regarding the passengers dumping trash on the street. The new ordinance specifies that the tractor trailers can park on a city street only while they are actively delivering

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or picking up goods and privately owned buses are prohibited from using the city streets to pick up or drop off passengers.

It is the Westminster Police Departments belief that these new ordinances will reduce the number of vehicle stored on the street, traffic congestion, and noise complaints. They will also help regulate commercial vehicles that are left standing on the street for long periods of time, affecting commercial areas and nearby neighborhoods.

If anyone has any questions regarding these new ordinances, they can contact the Westminster Police Department Traffic Division at (714) 548-3220.